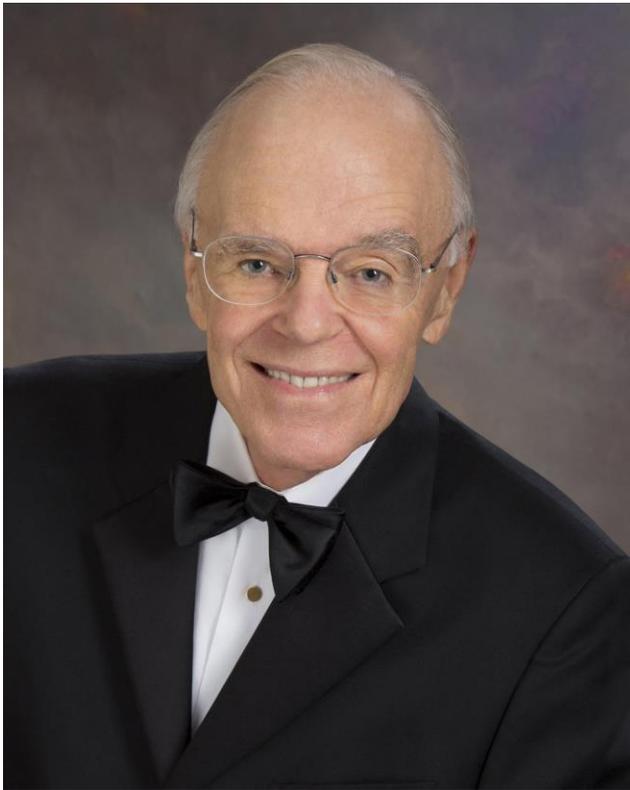


TCCW Staff and Chorus Officers

The City Choir of Washington Staff



Robert Shafer, Artistic Director, recognized as one of America's major choral conductors, has served as Artistic Director of the City Choir of Washington since its launch in September 2007. He was the Music Director of The Washington Chorus and its predecessor, the Oratorio Society, for more than 35 years, and in February 2000, he was honored by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences with a GRAMMY® Award for *Best Choral Performance* for a live concert recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. A student of the distinguished Nadia Boulanger, Shafer has been noted for his own compositions, including his setting of *Lux Aeterna*, which was premiered in April 2009, and *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*, commissioned for the 150th anniversary of Hope College in 2016. Shafer taught at James Madison High School from 1968-1975, later directed music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and served as Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Music at the Conservatory of Music of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, from 1983 to 2015.

Rachel Binger, Assistant Conductor, is director of The City Singers, TCCW's Outreach Ensemble. She attended Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University and has over 20 years of conducting and performing experience. Currently, she is in her thirteenth year as choral director at River Bend Middle with Loudoun County Public Schools in Sterling, Virginia. Miss Binger has served as department chair, vocal director and accompanist to

musicals, and her ensembles have received excellent and superior ratings at festival competitions and assessments. Miss Binger is an active member of NAFME, and ACDA. Her select ensemble, Raven Choir, has also performed the National Anthem as guest for the Washington Wizards at the Verizon Center for the past three years.



Zain Shariff, Operations Director, first joined City Choir in the summer of 2008, when the chorus performed *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* at Wolf Trap. He has been on the board since 2011. Zain, a bass-baritone, has performed in a number of principal roles with opera companies throughout the region. As an administrator, Zain is general director of the Hub Opera Ensemble, located in Hagerstown, MD. In 2010, Zain was operations manager for a large engineering firm in Columbia, Md., then took up his long-time passion: teaching. He now teaches U.S. and world history at Elizabeth Seton High School, which is a private, all-girls school in Bladensburg, Maryland.



Nathaniel Hodges, Chorus Manager, is a musician and educator living in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Elon University in North Carolina with a degree in music education and minor in jazz studies. He combines his love of education, music, and history by working multiple jobs around the city with Bar-T, a child-care company, the White House Historical Association, and now City Choir. Outside of work, he plays soccer and consumes way too much media. He hopes to eventually return to get his Master's in Arts Administration and continue the kind of work he has starting with The City Choir of Washington.

Chorus Officers



William J. Doepkens, Chorus President, has sung with the City Choir of Washington since its inception and hosts the annual chorus picnic at his beautiful farm in Davidsonville, Maryland every summer. He raises beef cattle, chickens (for eggs) and sells cut flowers from his farm both directly and through local businesses. His floral bouquets and creations are just another creative outlet in addition to serving as alternate tenor II section leader.

Amy Durant Solomon, Chorus Vice President, was a market researcher for Yankelovich, Skelly & White in New York and National Analysts in Philadelphia before moving to Washington with her husband Eric. She has also sung with the Oratorio Society of New York, Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia and the Washington Chorus. She is a graduate of Wells College in Aurora, N.Y., and once worked for Lillian Hellman as a housekeeper. The couple has a daughter, Sarah, born in 1991.